

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 106 - HB 226**

February 3, 2013

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Prohibits members of the news media or press from disclosing information related to the identity of a person who participated in online services offered by the news media or press, specifically listing "name, phone number, postal address, e-mail address, or IP address."

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

**Assumptions:**

- Currently, a Tennessee court, the general assembly, a grand jury, or an administrative body cannot compel members of the press or media to disclose "any information or the source of any information procured for publication or broadcast." The protection does not apply to defamatory information. Someone seeking the protected information, however, can apply for a protective order with the court having jurisdiction over the hearing, action, or other proceeding in which the information sought is pending.
- The bill specifically lists certain information that the press or media cannot disclose, absent a protective order from the court having jurisdiction.
- The bill could result in increased litigation that would need to be filed to seek the requisite protective order. According to the Administrative Office of the Courts, any increase in the caseload of the state courts can be accommodated within existing resources.
- Any increase in the caseload of local courts can be accommodated within existing resources.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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